

Assistant Director, Research and Reports

24 August 1960

Deputy Chief, Economic Research Area

Comments on Agency Publications Board Staff Study Draft: "Dissemination of Agency Publications Beyond the Intelligence Community," dated 3 August 1960

1. The subject draft staff study examines the Agency's present policies and procedures for dissemination of Agency materials outside the Intelligence Community and considers the pros and cons of such dissemination. It concludes that, where such dissemination meets the criteria of security, economy, net advantage, demands and "uniqueness" (that is, where the information is available from no other source), public dissemination is a good thing and should be encouraged. Furthermore, the procedures for release of such material should be regularized, as distinct from the present ad hoc situation. To achieve such regularization, it proposes a) the amendment of the Agency's mandate from the NSC, and b) the issuance of a new regulation, a copy of which is attached to the draft study.

2. Our reaction to the study and to the proposed regulation is generally favorable, although with one possible procedural objection. The regulation would formalize a policy which recognizes the sort of problem with which ORR has been confronted, namely, as the study puts it, the need "to stimulate external research on Communism and Bloc countries and to maintain normal exchange relations with the non-government scholarly community." Furthermore, it is designed to systematize dissemination in such a way as to ensure consistency and security in effecting the release of such unclassified materials. This is doubtless desirable.

3. Our possible objection to the proposed regulation has to do with the apparent designation of AD/CR as the official responsible for approval of recommendations for public dissemination. We have misgivings about this. I have talked to [redacted] about this point 25X1A9a and he states there is no intention to have the AD/CR be more than the "master of the check-list." In other words, the aim is to have him (AD/CR) serve as coordinator, but not to exercise veto authority on any grounds other than those contained in the check-list, such as security, legal position, etc. This is reassuring, but the difficulty is that the regulation does not make this clear. We would feel better about it if it did.

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1 - St/A

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